

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05719 051035Z
ACTION EA-12

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TO USICA WASHDC
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USICA

FOR ECA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: REVISION OF FULBRIGHT AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 076065-C

1. DPAO AND CAO MET WITH CHIYUKI HIRAOKA, NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL MOFA CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT CONCERNING PROGRESS ON REVISED AGREEMENT. MOFA COUNTER-PROPOSAL NOW IN HANDS OF EDUCATION MINISTRY FOR STUDY AND EXPECTED BACK SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. MINED STUDY APPARENTLY TAKING UNUSUALLY LONG TIME. WILL BE REVIEWED THEN BY TREATIES BUREAU BEFORE SUBMISSION TO FINANCE MINISTRY. THUS CANNOT EXPECT FINAL APPROVED VERSION BEFORE END APRIL.

2. SUGGEST WE CABLE FINAL DRAFT JAPAN COUNTERPROPOSAL TO AGENCY FOR REVIEW AND PRELIMINARY COMMENTS BY AGENCY LEGAL ADVISER AND ECA. DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE WHEN VISIT BY LEGAL ADVISER APPROPRIATE. WOULD GUESS EARLY TO MID-MAY.

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3. MOFA ALSO TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO HAVE PRIME MINISTER MAKE REFERENCE TO GOJ READINESS TO COST-SHARE IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT TIME OF WASHINGTON VISIT, PROVIDED NO "INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS" ARISE (HIRAOKA'S WORDS). THIS OF COURSE WOULD DEPEND ON PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS AT TIME, BUT POST BELIEVES SUCH REFERENCE WOULD GIVE EFFECTIVE PUSH TOWARD REALIZATION OF COST SHARING,

ESPECIALLY IN MATTER OF BUDGET REQUEST AND DIET DISCUSSION.

4. DISTURBING DEVELOPMENT BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY MOFA IS THAT MINISTRY OF FINANCE APPARENTLY INTERPRETING "50-50 COST-SHARING" TO MEAN GOJ WOULD CONTRIBUTE ONE-HALF TOTAL AMOUNT OF PRESENT FULBRIGHT BUDGET, THUS KEEPING PROGRAM AT ABOUT PRESENT LEVEL. COST-SHARING APPARENTLY SEEN BY MINFIN AS ATTEMPT BY USG "TO ECONOMIZE." WE REITERATED EARLIER DISCUSSIONS THAT UNDERSTANDING HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT GOJ WOULD "MATCH" USG CONTRIBUTION THUS APPROXIMATELY DOUBLING SIZE OF PROGRAM. HIRAOKA SUGGESTED NO NEED FOR PESSIMISM AT THIS POINT AS FINANCE MINISTRY TENDS TO LOOK FOR LOWEST COST ROUTE AND THAT MOFA WOULD CLARIFY POINT IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. ONE ADDITIONAL POSSIBLE PROBLEM, WHICH SHOULD HAVE LITTLE BEARING ON AGREEMENT, IS MOFA MISGIVINGS ON "HIGH" SALARY SCALE OF SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL. THIS WE FEEL IS SOMETHING A NEW COMMISSION WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT.

5. PAO IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH HIRAOKA EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION OF EARLIER UNDERSTANDING ON COST SHARING, POINTING OUT THAT ONE-HALF OF PRESENT TOTAL AMOUNT WOULD NOT PROVIDE FOR EXPANDED PROGRAM AS ENVISAGED. HIRAOKA SYMPATHETIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THIS CONCERN, STATED HE WOULD PURSUE WITH MINFIN AND KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED. FORSTER

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Message Attributes

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